Celebrating the Life & Legacy of

Mother Bethena Moore

Arrival
November 21, 1916

Departure
April 26, 2006

Services Held

Monday, May 8, 2006
12:00 pm

St. John Missionary Baptist Church
662 So. 52nd Street
Richmond, Ca 94804

Dr. Kevin B. Hall, Pastor

Life's Reflection of
Mother Bethena Moore

Bethena Rogers Moore was born November 21, 1916 in Natchitoches, Louisiana to the parents of Alex and Luntiney Rogers. She attended the public school in Campti, Louisiana and at an early age accepted Christ uniting with the St. Titus Baptist Church.

Bethena began touching lives at an early age, while working as a Laundry clerk at Fort Polk, Louisiana, and doing other jobs. After a sweet courtship, Bethena Rogers married Willie Moore on May 9, 1936. Willie Moore came to California in the early 40's to find work before sending for his wife.

Once settled in California, Willie Moore sent for his wife and to this union two children were born: one son and one daughter, Kenneth and Ardis. While Willie Moore worked doing various jobs such as carpentry, plumbing, etc. Bethena saw a need to assist in bringing forth finances for the family.

She had been a devout member of St. John Missionary Baptist Church for over 60 years, originally joining under the leadership of the late Pastor G.E. Carter and was a close friend of Pastor Robert L. Johnson.

During her years of service at St. John, she was not only faithful, but was also one of the key voices leading the Women's Ministry and the entire congregation in "Old Time" hymns, she was a Senior Choir member for many years, and a member of the Mothers Board.

Not only was Bethena Moore a welder during the Kaiser Shipyard days, she also did odd jobs until she was hired at the Del Monte Cannery, Local #35 in Emeryville where she mastered many skills; she was a Fruit Canner, Seamiest, and worked the Fruit sorter "belt".

Although a widow since 1974, Mother Moore continued to work in order to provide for her children. Mother Moore decided to take a trip to the Holy Land in Israel where she was baptized in the River of Jordan during the mid 80's.

Mother Moore made it her business to visit her home state of Louisiana at least once per year until the late 90's.

Mother Moore was referred to by many as "Dump", "Aunt Dump", "Aunt Bethena", "Cousin Bethena", "Aunt Ninny", "Moma" and some of her former co-workers called her "Beth".

Mother Moore touched too many lives to name, however, during her last days she made it perfectly clear in the presence of her daughter, Ardis Moore and granddaughter, Andréa Moore, that she loved every single individual who she had an opportunity to get to know, love, raise, help and pray for at one time or another.

During Mother Moore's last days here on earth, her mind remained strong as her body weakened. She was able to provide clear direction to her family regarding business and her final wishes.
This Holy Ghost filled, Mighty Woman of God knew her days were numbered and was well prepared.

On Wednesday evening, April 26, 2006 at Stanford Medical Center, Stanford, CA, Mother Bethena Moore answered the call of her Heavenly Father as He provided her with sweet rest, which had been her prayer.

Mother Bethena Moore was preceded in death by her husband, Willie Moore. She leaves to cherish her life and legacy one son, Kenneth Lloyd Moore and one daughter, Ardis June Moore, both of Richmond, CA.; one step-daughter, Lessie McCoy of Richmond, CA; one sister, Frankie Rogers, of Richmond; two granddaughters whom she raised, Andréa and Dianna Moore; one step-granddaughter, Toni Gibson of Portland, Oregon; a host of relatives (many of whom she raised at some point of their lives), many extended families and friends.

Order of Service

Musical Interlude.....

Processional.....Clergy and Family

Scripture.....Old Testament.....Minister Metrice Williams

New Testament.....Minister Melvin Williams

Prayer.....Minister Melvin Willliams

Solo.....Brother Dion Williams

Acknowledgements.....Sister Annie Johnson

Resolution.....Sister Judy McCormies

Expressions *(Two Minutes Please)*.....Minister Donnell Jones-Craven

.....Brother Hilton Box

.....Brother Charles Leon Box

.....Brother Edward Lynn Box

.....Sister Yvonne Simon

Solo.....Minister Cynthia Harris

Obituary.....Silent Reading

Solo.....Sister Willa Gaye Williams

Words of Comfort.....Dr. Kevin B. Hall, Pastor

Parting View.....

Recessional.....

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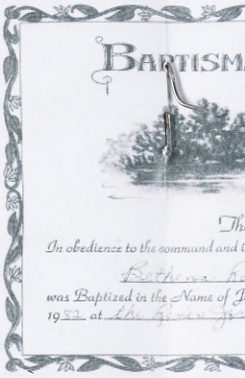
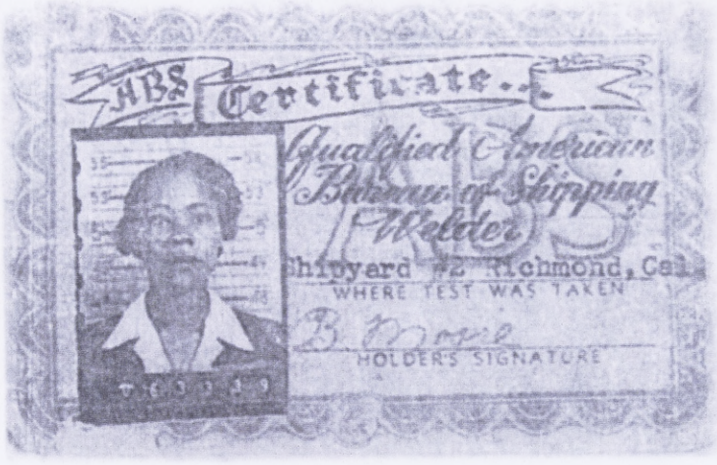

BAPTISM


HBS Certificate
Qualified American
Welder
Shipyard #2 Richmond, Cal
WHERE TEST WAS TAKEN
HOLDER'S SIGNATURE

Bossier City
Shreveport
Monroe
Natchitoches
Alexandria
Lake Charles
Lafayette
Louisi

Baptismal Certificate

This Certifies that

dience to the command and in following the example of our Lord Jesus Christ

Bethena Rogers Meek

aptized in the Name of Jesus Christ on the 11 day of March

at Elm Grove Missionary Baptist Church

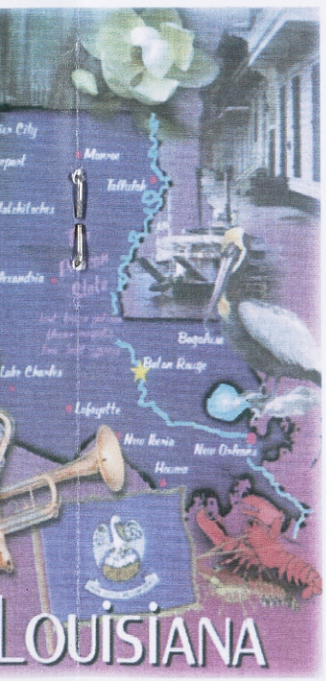
Rev. Hans C. Taylor

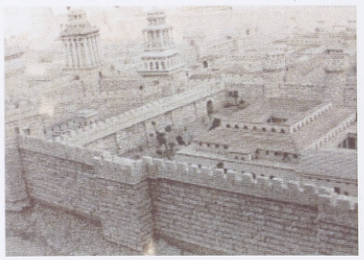
Bethena

Name: Bethena
Origin: Hebrew
Meaning: "a rock or foundation"

Majestic; finds inspiration everywhere
Personality; answers the door when opportunity knocks
Genuine; a winner in anybody's book
Style; has self with discretion
Ability; someone who can turn coal into diamonds
Character; a person of scholarly discipline
Sentiment; worth her weight in gold
Physical; one with carefree agility

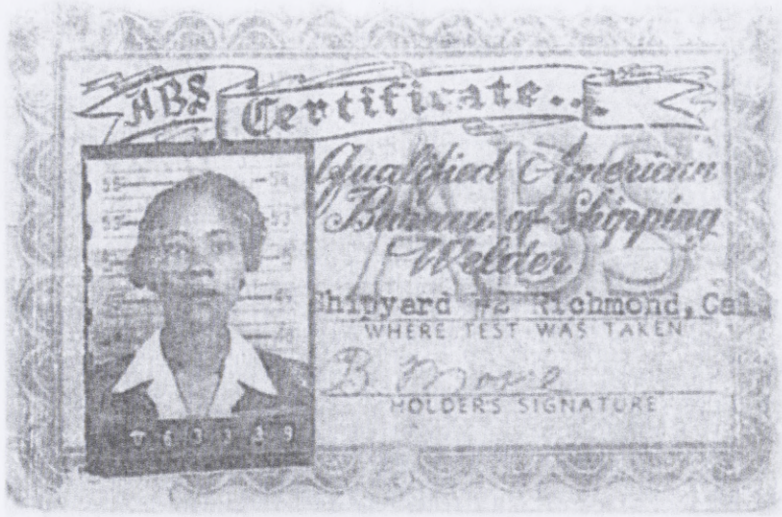
With all My Love,
Your Granddaughter, Dianna





'Rosie the Riveter' Honored in California Memorial

New York Times article October 22, 2000



Former Richmond Naval shipyard welder Bethena Moore's original welders card from the Richmond Navel shipyard

The image of a muscle-bound woman in overalls became an enduring wartime icon, embodying the nation's can-do spirit, and was popularized in posters, war- bond promotions and the 1942 song, "Rosie the Riveter." But in Richmond, Rosie was real. "After they bombed Pearl Harbor, the next thing you heard was, `There's shipbuilding in California, " said Bethena Moore, now 83, who moved from Derrider, La., where she had been a laundry worker, to become a welder. A diminutive 110 pounds, she was given the dangerous task of climbing down a narrow steel ladder, tethered to a welding machine, four stories into the ships' double-bottoms.

"It was dark, scary," she said. "It felt sad, because there was a war on. You knew why you were doing it - the men overseas might not get back. There were lives involved. So the welding had to be perfect."

Like many of Richmond's Rosies, Mrs. Moore was technically not a riveter. Riveting, a laborious, highly skilled task, was replaced at the Kaiser shipyards by faster prefabrication techniques during the war. Her arms, like those of many women shipyard workers, still bear tiny white scars from "metal sparkles," hot slag that fell into her sleeves and gloves as she welded overhead. Many, including Mrs. Moore, still carry their timeworn welding certificates in their wallets.

The war forever changed Mrs. Moore and others. "Anybody could have done what I was doing in Louisiana," she said of operating pressing machines at a laundry. "Building a ship was a different feeling."

Always There

Inspired By Moma (Bethena Moore)

Originally written by Andrea Moore during Operation Joint Guard-Bosnia, 1997 (revised Jan. 2006)

89 years young, 5'6, medium toned, strong build,
bares facial features of a 60 yr old -no Driving Ms. Daisy here!
Hair of curly, fine greys, well kept, sharp sistah, skin of baked almonds.
Becoming a widow seemed to make her more of a stronghold than she already portrayed
to be, set the example, exerted authority effectively, with loving kindness;
stern at times yet moderately tempered.

Always There

Knew how to brighten anyone's day, respected by all.....it did not matter what their
background was, she provided love to all who could stand it.

Always There

Louisiana native, soul food sistah, raised too many to name...
all had a chance to partake of those good ol'e chitterlings, hog maws, neck bones, collards, mustards, turnips, black
eyed peas & rice, oh, and please don't forget that homemade cornbread!!!!
You name it, she threw down on it.

Always There

Quotes the holy word verbatum- with no hesitation, true soldier, fervent prayer warrior, faithful member,
mother of the church

Always There

Had many of us not been blessed with such a big moma, where would we be?
This question rewinds in my mind time after time. She is my joy, inspiration,
livelihood, spiritual blessing, my testimony.
She's always there!!!!

In Memory of

(Those Who Have Passed Before Her)

Alex Rogers - Father
Luntiney Rogers - Mother
Joe Rogers - Brother
Levi Rogers _ Brother
Junior Rogers - Brother
O.B. Rogers - Brothers
Earl Rogers - Brother
Johnny Rogers - Brother
Bessie Rogers - Sister
Alex 'A.J. " Rogers - Brother
Tiney "Gady" Williams - Sister
JoAnn "Piney" Bolton - Sister
Eddie "Sonny" Moore - Son
Sheryl Denise Woods - Granddaughter

"Asleep"

I've closed my eyes and fallen asleep,
So there's no reason for you to weep.
This is a debt we all must pay,
But it is a sweet and peaceful way.
I've endured pain and sometimes sorrow.
Now I don't have to worry about tomorrow.
Life for you must go on
You stood beside me all the way,
When I was down you knew what to say.
You always told me to get some rest,
Let me sleep now, I've done my best.
The tears you are shedding soon will cease
Perhaps my times seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heads and share with me,
God wanted me now, He set me free!

Active Pallbearers

Hilton Box
Charles Leon Box
Edward Lynn Box
William Box
Wesley Edwards, Jr.
Deacon Nick

Honorary Pallbearers

Kenneth Lloyd Moore
Claytis Jackson
Wesley Charles Edwards
Daemon Bowman

Interment

Rolling Hills Memorial Park
Richmond, CA 94803

Repass To Be Held:

Odom Hall
2131 Nevin Avenue
Richmond, CA 94806

Arrangements Entrusted To:

Wilson & Kratzer Mortuaries
455 24th Street
Richmond, CA 94804
510.232.4383

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